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Letter dated 21 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I write in reference to the letter dated 8 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/440). The purpose of the present letter is simply to clarify the record with the Security Council regarding the matters raised in the letter from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations.

The United Arab Emirates is a member of the Arab coalition to support legitimacy in Yemen, formed at the request of the legitimate Government of Yemen to protect Yemen and its people from the "acts of aggression and the incessant attacks against the country's sovereignty" committed by the Houthi rebel militias (see S/2015/217). As a member of the coalition, the principal objective of the United Arab Emirates has always been, and continues to be, supporting the political process in Yemen, in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions, the Initiative of the Gulf Cooperation Council and its implementation mechanism and the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference.

In that regard, the United Arab Emirates notes, with regret, that there has been a misunderstanding caused by inaccurate reporting about certain minor operational measures. The United Arab Emirates' presence in Socotra Island, which precedes the conflict in Yemen, having commenced in 2012 in the wake of the devastation caused by Cyclone Murjan, is strictly to assist the people of Socotra Island and for humanitarian purposes. This is demonstrated by the considerable developmental and humanitarian support that the United Arab Emirates has provided to the Island since 2012, in coordination with the Yemeni Government, including the construction of the Zayed residential city, the training of Yemeni forces and the reconstruction and development of the Island's essential infrastructure, such as its airports and seaports and its health, education, electricity, sewage, oil and water facilities. The United Arab Emirates' operations in Socotra Island are wholly consistent with its operations in other areas of Yemen and with the broader efforts of the Arab coalition to support legitimacy in Yemen to protect the people of Yemen and address their humanitarian needs and to support the political process through the legitimate Government of Yemen.

The situation in Socotra Island has now been fully resolved, and there is strong coordination between the United Arab Emirates, the Government of Yemen, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the other members of the Arab coalition to support legitimacy in Yemen. The United Arab Emirates assures the legitimate Government



of Yemen and the brotherly Yemeni people that it unconditionally recognizes Yemen's sovereignty over Socotra Island. The United Arab Emirates has no intention or ambition to maintain a long-term presence in Socotra Island.

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Lana **Nusseibeh**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
